

OLYMPIC OBSERVATIONS

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With the staging of the 1976 Olympic Games, we felt that it would be fitting for the word-lover to investigate the Olympic phenomenon.

The earliest celebration of the ancient Olympic Games (more properly called "Olympian Games") of which there is a definite record is that of July 776 BC, though their origin probably dates from about 1370 BC. The ancient Games were terminated by the Roman Emperor Theodosius in AD 394. The Olympic Games of the modern era were inaugurated in Athens in April 1896. Celebrations have been held:

1896 I	Athens	1940 XII	*Tokyo, then Helsinki
1900 II	Paris	1944 XIII	*London
1904 III	St. Louis	1948 XIV	London
1908 IV	London	1952 XV	Helsinki
1912 V	Stockholm	1956 XVI	Melbourne
1916 VI	*Berlin	1960 XVII	Rome
1920 VII	Antwerp	1964 XVIII	Tokyo
1924 VIII	Paris	1968 XIX	Mexico City
1928 IX	Amsterdam	1972 XX	Munich
1932 X	Los Angeles	1976 XXI	Montreal
1936 XI	Berlin		

An asterisk denotes that the Games were cancelled because of war.

As a logologist, we have been busy in preparation for this Olympic year. Because of the barrage of newspaper, radio and (most importantly) television coverage that this year's Games will receive, we felt that it would be useful to draw up a list of "Olympic" words and terms which could be referred to whenever necessary. It has been difficult to decide just what is and what is not an "Olympic" term or word. Finally, though, we decided that any dictionary entry beginning with the letters OLYMP was eligible for inclusion in our list. We have, however, omitted the many placenames beginning with these letters which can only be found in extensive gazetteers and atlas indexes.

The list should be of great use. For example, it will enable you to distinguish between the OLYMPIAN GAMES and the OLYMPIC GAMES. It will help you to distinguish between the colors OLYMPIAN BLUE and OLYMPIC BLUE. When a sports reporter or commentator at Montreal refers to the OLYMPIC POOL, our list will instantly enlighten you as to the nature of such an object. No Olympic Games enthusiast can afford to be without a copy of the list!

- OLYMPAS the name of a mid-first century Christian of Rome, mentioned in the Bible
- OLYMPE a French feminine personal name
- OLYMPENE a Greek or Latin proper name
- OLYMPEUM a Greek or Latin proper name
- OLYMPHAS a Scripture proper name
- OLYMPHEST a series of school contests in athletics, spelling, cooking, drawing, music and handicrafts
- OLYMPIA the capital of the state of Washington; of the kind or style prevalent in Olympia; a valley of ancient Greece which was a center of religious worship
- OLYMPIAD a quadriennial celebration of the modern Olympic Games
- OLYMPIADES a Greek or Latin proper name
- OLYMPIADIC pertaining to an Olympiad
- OLYMPIADICAL pertaining to an Olympiad
- OLYMPIADIC ERA the epoch of the first Olympiad, 776 BC, July 1st
- OLYMPIAN of or relating to the ancient Greek region of Olympia; a native or inhabitant of ancient Olympia; a participant in Olympic Games; befitting or characteristic of the gods conceived as inhabiting Mount Olympus in Thessaly, displaying majestic omniscience or detachment; one of the gods conceived as inhabiting Mount Olympus
- OLYMPIAN BLUE a deep blue that is greener and duller than Yale blue and greener and slightly lighter than royal
- OLYMPIAN GAMES a Panhellenic festival dedicated to Zeus, originating in 776 BC and held every fourth year in the first month after the summer solstice, and consisting of contests in sports, music and literature
- OLYMPIAN GREEN a moderate yellowish green that is greener, stronger, and slightly lighter than tarragon, lighter and stronger than average almond green, and deeper and slightly yellower than verdigris
- OLYMPIANISM worship of the Olympian gods
- OLYMPIANIZE to convert into an Olympian
- OLYMPIANLY in an Olympic manner
- OLYMPIAN RELIGION worship of the Olympian gods, especially as a dominant cult or religion
- OLYMPIANWISE in the characteristic manner or fashion of an Olympian
- OLYMPIAN ZEUS a statue by Phidias, in the Temple of Zeus at Olympia, representing Zeus seated on a throne
- OLYMPIA ORANGE-TIP an American butterfly, *Synchlœ olympia*, occurring in the southwestern United States
- OLYMPIA OYSTER a small flavorful native oyster (*Ostrea lurida*) of the Puget Sound area of the Pacific coast of North America
- OLYMPIAS a feminine personal name
- OLYMPIC of or relating to the ancient Greek region of Olympia; of or relating to Mount Olympus in Thessaly; superlative; of or relating to the Olympic Games
- OLYMPICAL an obsolete form of the adjective "Olympic"
- OLYMPIC BLUE a strong greenish blue that is bluer and deeper than grotto, greener, lighter and stronger than average cerulean blue, and bluer, lighter and stronger than indigo carmine
- OLYMPIC ERA an era dating from 776 BC, the supposed date of the

beginning of the Olympian Games
 OLYMPIC GAMES a modified revival of the Olympian Games originating in Athens in 1896, held once every four years, and consisting of international athletic contests
 OLYMPICLY in an Olympic manner
 OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS a mountain system in northwest Washington
 OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK a national park in northwest Washington
 OLYMPICNESS the state of being Olympic
 OLYMPIC PASSION PIT a drive-in cinema
 OLYMPIC POOL a drive-in cinema
 OLYMPICS Olympic Games
 OLYMPICUS a Greek or Latin proper name
 OLYMPIE a German feminine personal name
 OLYMPIEION a temple of the Olympian Zeus
 OLYMPIEUM a temple of the Olympian Zeus
 OLYMPIEUM a temple of the Olympian Zeus
 OLYMPIO the surname of Sylvanus Olympio, 1902-1963, an African statesman, the first president of the Republic of Togo, 1961-1963
 OLYMPIODORUS a Greek historian of the 5th century AD
 OLYMPIONIC an ode in honor of a victor in the Olympian Games
 OLYMPIONICES a Greek or Latin proper name
 OLYMPIONICEST a victor in the Olympian Games
 OLYMPIUM a temple of the Olympian Zeus
 OLYMPIUS a Biblical name, occurring at 2 Maccabees vi 2
 OLYMPUS a mountain in Macedonia believed by the ancient Greeks to be the abode of the Olympian gods

Checking the list carefully, we noticed that at least three of the items on it are transposable -- that is, capable of being anagrammed to give other words. Thus, OLYMPIAD gives POLYAMID, OLYMPIADES gives POLYAMIDES, and OLYMPIAN gives POLYMNIA. Furthermore, the plural of the last word, OLYMPIANS, can be anagrammed to form AMYLOPSIN. Some items on the list are more closely related than the casual observer might believe. OLYMPE is derived from OLYMPIE by simply deleting the I in the latter; OLYMPIEUM is similarly derived from OLYMPIEUM, as is OLYMPUS from OLYMPIUS. OLYMPIA is nothing more than a curtailment of both OLYMPIAD and OLYMPIAN, while OLYMPIONICES is a nice curtailment of OLYMPIONICEST. OLYMPAS can be derived from OLYMPHAS and OLYMPIAS by deleting, respectively, the H and the I. Further, OLYMPIAD and OLYMPIAN are thetagrams -- that is, they differ only in their eighth letters. OLYMPHAS and OLYMPIAS are similarly zetagrams.

The dictionaries used in the preparation of this article were Webster's Unabridged (Second and Third Editions), Funk & Wagnalls New Standard, The Oxford English Dictionary, The Random House Dictionary, The Century Dictionary, The Imperial Dictionary, Webster's Biographical Dictionary, A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, and Mencken's The American Language.